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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOAA Reschedules Announcement of Florida Panhandle Dolphin Die-Off Interim Report

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA's National Ocean Service, and their partners have rescheduled a Wednesday, June 9 telephone news conference to discuss the interim report since a number of team members will be affected by activities surrounding President Reagan's funeral in Washington, D.C.

The team will now hold a teleconference one week later than originally planned to discuss preliminary tests results from the recent die-off of 107 bottlenose dolphins along the Florida Panhandle, which occurred between March 10 and April 13. NOAA Fisheries declared the die-off an Unusual Mortality Event March 17, launching a comprehensive multi-agency investigation. Scientists from several organizations have been analyzing dolphin tissue and collecting water samples. NOAA and partners will issue an interim report to Congress June 16.

What: Teleconference to discuss dolphin interim report findings

When: Wednesday, June 16, 2004 at 1:30 p.m. East Coast Time

Call No.: Toll free number: 1-888-664-9853; Passcode: 010604

Who: **Teri Rowles, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources, Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program
Fran Van Dolah, Ph.D., NOAA Ocean Service, Center for Coastal Environmental Health and Biomolecular Research Program
Quay Dortch, Ph.D., NOAA Ocean Service, Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms Program
Jan Landsberg, Ph.D., Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Marine Research Institute
Randall Wells, Ph.D., Chicago Zoological Society/Mote Marine Lab and Working Group on Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events
Blair Mase, NOAA Fisheries Southeast Fisheries Science Center
Ron Hardy, Gulfworld Marine Park

Contact Connie Barclay at NOAA Fisheries Public Affairs to arrange an individual interview with members of the investigation team. Background documents will be available on line June 16 at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/strandings.htm